

PS 1469

.C6

Copy 1



LIFE OF COLUMBUS.



THE
LIFE OF
CHRISTOPHER
COLUMBUS,
THE GREAT DISCOVERER.

—BY—

✓
Wm. H. Creedon, M. D.

—
This brief sketch is put into rhyme
While endeavoring to contribute
Something to suit the present time.
To the subject a peculiar tribute.

384434

Wheeler

W. H.

PS 1469
C6

Am. R., 100, 114, 1921

INTRODUCTION.

The present time is especially appropriate for the production of remembrances pertaining to the Life of Christopher Columbus, while the nation is doing honor to the great discoverer by the Columbian World's Fair, and in the four hundredth anniversary of his first landing on these shores.

The checquered career of that most favored, unfortunate and great man, the thrilling, romantic and tragic incidents, the struggles, trials discoveries and triumphs, of several years have been emulated from a true historical basis, hoping its peculiar merits may deserve and engage a short perusal.

W. H. C.

COPYRIGHT 1893.
BY
WM. H. CREEDON, M. D.

Spiritual Introduction.

God made the world and it is His.

He ordained that it should be populated,
And too, by his noblest work, man,
By whom the high seas must be navigated,
And made the great highway of nations
O'er which were to sail seamen brave,
The result being the greatest of discoveries,
And propagation of the race—the same to save.

The human mind is the brightest display
Of the power and skill of the Infinite Mind;
It is created and placed here to be educated
For a state of existence of the highest kind;
The object being to train mind and soul,
Enabling to fulfill all duties brave,
When she leaves this cradle of her being
For an eternal existence beyond the grave.

Electricity is but an indolent drone
Compared to the flashes of mind
Though it may perforate the air with
Balls of fire, a termination it will find,
Furrowing through the air separating clouds,
Myriads of molecules meeting in thunderous roar,
The mind penetrates the fiercest lightning,
And has time left far beyond it to soar.

The mind is the great instrument of effecting the
Is decidedly and continually improved [world,
By the intellectual power of exercise,
No danger of o'erstretching thoughts deep grooved;
The perfection of a disciplined mind is
To rouse up its faculties, draw out its strength,
Make it produce a quantity of results
On indulged subjects, and at length.

This is the end of all discoveries—pursuits,
When the world and its fleeting ambition,
Its mind and matter shall have passed away,
After living a life of many an admonition;
Of all that live and move and breathe,
Above his birth only man can rise,
That he may enter into the celestial
And rolling ages of heavenly joys.

Christopher Columbus.

At the age of 56, Christopher Columbus
Discovered America, *anno domino* 1492,
When the subject of discovery was treated as
Visionary and chimerical, he had his view.
His aspiring mind was taught, rather inspired
To stray across the broad expanse of the ocean,
Where fields rich with gold, green with verdure,
In his mind caused great commotion.

In the fifth century. Buddhist monks,
After a daring voyage from the Chinese Empire,
Are reported to have landed on this continent,
But to believe this people had no desire.
St. Brendan, who lived in Ireland,
Visited these shores a hundred years later,
To verify this as being true, we shall
Refer his spirit for glory to his Creator.

Four hundred years later, one Ericssen,
Landed on the shores, now Rhode Island,
Where it is said he established a settlement,
Which place he had then called Vineland.
Next who is supposed to have effected a landing,
Is a Prince Madoc of little Wales,
This was in the eleventh century,
Some doubt exists if these are not tales.

Christopher Columbus alone is the
Acknowledged discoverer of the New World,
To whom the glory of the discovery belongs,
Whose colors on our shore were first unfurled.
His age is clothed in more or less obscurity,
The best authorities are unable to fix the year,
Some placing it as far back as 1435,
To modern historians ten years later it appear.

For the purposes of this brief history,

The year 1435, as correct will be taken,
And Genoa, Italy, as being the city,

This being generally conceded, am not mistaken.
Other cities have claimed the honor of his birth,

But all such are stripped of the honor,
Genoa is the city wherein his birth occurred,
This is embraced as a doubt no longer.

Columbus was the son of a wool comber,

Of his early life and education little is known,
That he attended the University at Pavia,
In the minds of the people has grown.

Returning to Genoa at the age of twelve,

Where, with his father, two years he remained,
When with a relative he began his voyages,
And his fondness for the sea daily gained.

For sea voyages he evinced a remarkable liking,

A desire incident to the age in which he lived,
At his own request he was permitted to make them,
His own views in his mind he perceived.

His first voyage was a naval expedition,

Fitted out in Genoa in the year 1459,
To make a descent on the city of Naples,
Where he and his comrades formed in line.

This was a gallant but ill-fated enterprise,

When Columbus was ordered on a perilous cruise,
To cut a galley in the harbor of Tunis,

Whether successful or not there are no clues.
The fact is merely mentioned here to show,

That at that time at the age of twenty-four,
He exhibited a courageous and resolute spirit,
Which eventually proved successful at a later hour.

Now, for years, all traces of Columbus is lost,
Perhaps voyaging to the Mediteranean sea;
He was captain on several Genoa ships,
In the service of Louis XI of France, maybe.
At this time an incident is related, if true,
To prove the indomitable pluck of Chris,
This is slightly speculative history,
But in reality, to him, all was not bliss.

At this period Columbus occasionally sailed
With Colombo, the younger, who was a relative,
And gave him command of one of his vessels,
But for a short time was his command imperative,
For his vessel was fastened to a Venetian galley,
And both were involved in one conflagration,
Columbus seizing an oar jumped overboard
Swimming two leagues without hesitation.

The next heard of Columbus is in Lisbon,
Where for five years he continued to live,
Now his first appearance to Portugal,
As the best of authorities do give.
In full vigor of manhood and engaging presence,
Tall, well-formed, muscular and dignified,
His visage neither long, full, nor meagre,
His demeanor was somewhat glorified.

Complexion fair but freckled, nose aquiline,
His eyes light grey and apt to enkindle,
And his cheek bones were rather high,
In his countenance authority did intermingle,
In youthful days his hair was of a light color,
But quite grey at thirty years of age,
Was moderate and simple in diet and dress,
Eloquent in discourse but never rage.

With strangers he was engaging and affable,
His amiableness and suavity in domestic life
Attached his household to his very person,
As he sallied along in the world of strife.
His temper was naturally rather irritable,
But subdued it by magnanimity of spirit,
Comporting himself with courteous gravity, [it
To indulge in intemperance of language, never did

Throughout his life he was noted for
Strict attention to the affairs of religion,
Observing the fast and ceremonies of church,
And oft times he had received absolution,
Nor did his piety consist of mere forms,
But of that solemn enthusiasm he partook,
With which his character was strongly tinctured,
As he secretly futureward and calmly did look.

Still Columbus was residing in Lisbon,
It was but natural to find him there,
As the Portugese were the most expert seamen,
Compared with them others were nowhere.
The great mariners and captains were Genoese,
And most adventurous spirits of the age,
Here is where Columbus was stopping.
Was he not a wise young sage?

Love, perpetual melody of the human race,
Which keeps the spirit of the world ever young,
Found a spot very easily bombarded,
And to this enemy Columbus did succumb;
Dona Felipa Moniz held the fort,
While Columbus had to give up the garrison,
This was in the battlefield of love,
They married, we shall seek no comparison.

Concerning this event historians are perplexed,
As there are no records to determine the date,
Probably in the year of our Lord, 1474,
They begun their consolidated fate;
The issue of this Union was one son,
Born a year after this timely marriage,
Receiving at his baptismal, the name Diego,
Giving Christopher Columbus increased courage.

At this time Columbus supported his family
By making maps and charts, a distinction
A profession in those days required a knowledge
And experience with a sufficient intention.
Corresponding with scientific men of the time,
A fact due to his geographical labors,
Comparing maps and charts and noting
The progress and direction of other voyagers.

He perceived much of the world was unknown,
Living surrounded with the stir of discovery,
He communed with other daring mariners,
Whose explorations were based on a theory,
And who had risen to fortune and honor,
The mind of Columbus kindled up to enthusiasm
In the cause which he subsequently never lost,
Nor during the excitement showed any sarcasm.

Oh, what a period of general excitement,
To all residing in the vicinity of the ocean,
Rumors were constantly heard on all sides,
Of the discovery of islands, causing commotion;
Most of which were but fabulous tales,
With curious care Columbus noted them down,
This is mentioned to state the existing feeling,
Which was predominant as the cause had grown.

This influenced the mind of Columbus

Confirming his opinion of land "beyond the sea,"
He acquainted himself with all had been written,
On all discoveries relating to geography;
From these fanciful narratives and current rumors,
His grand project of discovery was formed
By "strong workings of his vigorous mind,"
Which continually had kept him warmed.

The foregoing shows that Columbus was

Moved to his grand design by the spirit
And events of the time in which he lived,
And to these he had given much credit.
From this mass of superstition, fable and report,
He had come to his final conclusion,
That there was land in the western part
Of the ocean, to him seemed no delusion.

That this land was fertile and inhabited,
And it was possible to be found,
In his mind he thought he would prove it,
This undertaking himself he had bound.
His entire life, character and conduct
Was influenced by all subsequent information,
His opinion now seemed to be fixed
He determined to make the investigation.

No disappointment or trial could desist
Him from the pursuits of his life's object,
As he considered himself in the hands of Heaven,
Chosen for this great purpose a fit subject,
Enabling him to carry the light of true faith
Into benighted and undiscovered pagan lands,
Selected from men of high accomplishments,
Far above others alone he stands.

Columbus was now satisfied of the feasibility
 Of a voyage of discovery across the deep,
 His efforts were now centered to find the means,
 His resolution he was determined to keep;
 Many years elapsed before he secured a way
 To carry his grand design into execution,
 For he was too poor to fit out the needed vessels,
 Which would be in demand of his own notion.

This was an enterprise suitable for some sovereign,
 Who could assume dominion of all he might discover,
 Meantime discoveries were being made by mariners,
 Who along the coast of Africa did hover,
 Few venturing beyond the sight of land,
 Yet the sphere of navigation was extended,
 Who were now enabled to part information,
 As the art of printing had been first invented,

It drew forth learning from libraries

And convents which before existed in costly
 Manuscripts out of the reach of the poor scholar,
 The immense power of the printer's ink mostly,
 Making itself then, as it does now, manifest to all;
 Learning came within reach of every one,
 And ideas grew more rapidly and extensively
 In the minds of those not yet gone.

At this juncture (1481) the throne of

Portugal was occupied by King John II,
 Who had imbibed the passion of discovery,
 With his reign its activity was revived and
 During this prevailed excitement, augmented
 By the invention of a new marine instrument
 Called the astrolobe, by which navigators could
 Determine their distances from equator with con-
 [tent,

Columbus sought an interview with the king,
 The object of discovery to lay before him,
 The arguments of Columbus in favor of the scheme
 Had weight, filling the king to the brim;
 And who referred the proposition to a junto
 Composed of the very best of cosmographers,
 Who unfortunately, treated the subject as visionary,
 They possessed no Columbus head, neither did
 [others.

The king secretly sends a vessel out to sea,
 Notwithstanding the verdict of his learned junto,
 With the purpose of following the route laid down
 On the charts submitted by Columbus too.
 An immeasurable waste of sky and water,
 After journeying several days did they find,
 Ridiculing the project as being irrational,
 Stating, Columbus owned an unsound mind.

This unworthy attempt to defraud him
Of his enterprise roused his indignation,
And he at once determined to leave the country,
And to do so with calm resignation;
Being treated so unfairly in Portugal,
He thought he must seek assistance elsewhere,
On his personal exertions he must rely upon
Leaving Lisbon with his son Diego, his care.

From Lisbon he traveled to Genoa,
This being in the year of our Lord 1484,
Here, as in Lisbon, he met with refusal,
And it is evident he did not score.
Similar proposals he had made to Venice,
The result being the same as above,
Yet, did not falter in his undertaking,
But slowly and cautiously did rove.

Columbus lost again for another year,

No tidings of his whereabouts during this time,
Until the year 1435, 12 months later,

We find him among Spanish nobles in prime,
And seeking a fortune among high sovereigns,
Several of whom owned vast possessions,
And with some of these he almost succeeded

In getting the number of ships for his mission.

As usual it all ended in making nothing.

Columbus decided to seek the king of France,
When this became known to the Spanish nobles,

It almost put them in a trance,
As they were loath that an enterprise

Of such importance should be lost to Spain,
The Duke Medina-Celi wrote to Queen

Isabella strongly recommending the scheme.

The queen replied to the duke favorably,
 Requesting that Columbus be sent to her,
 He accordingly set out for the Spanish
 Court, then at Cordova, was all astir;
 This was one of the most brilliant periods
 In the Spanish monarchy, and when
 The kingdom of Castile and Arragan were united,
 The marriage of Ferdinand-Isabella took place then,

Thus consolidating christian power in the peninsula,
 Concentrating united Spain against the Moors,
 The city of Cordova was in all the bustle of
 Military preparation, preparing for evil doers.
 When Columbus arrived he was in charge
 Of Alonzo de Quintanilla, comptroller
 Of the treasury of Castile. This was a critical
 Juncture of the war, and was wished over.

The rival Moorish kings of Granada,
Muley Boabdil and Mohammed Boabdil,
Had just formed a great coalition,
Calling for vigorous measures in detail,
All the chivalry of Spain had been
Summoned to the field. The court looked
Like a military camp—the king and queen
In the midst of the cavaliers were booked

To distinguish themselves as in former
Wars against the Moors, they were intent,
So the subject of discovering new
Countries had to be abandoned for the present.
Columbus remained in Cordova during the
Prosecution of this war, as de Quintanilla's guest,
Who was now a warm advocate of the theory
Through whom he made friends of the best.

During the winter Columbus made the acquaintance

Of the celebrated Pedro Gonzales de Mendoza,
Archbishop of Toledo, which fact marked

A distinct epoch in his life. This we say
Because he was the most important personage

About the court, with Columbus pleased,
And after hearing his arguments determined

It was a matter highly worthy to be seized.

Through his representations Columbus finally

Obtained admission to the royal presence,
After listening to the eloquence of Columbus,

King Ferdinand determined this perseverance
Should receive the opinion of the most learned

Men of the kingdom and be guided
By their decision. The conference took place

In Salamanca, the seat of graded

Learning in Spain, and was held in the
Dominican Convent of St. Stephens, in which
Columbus was lodged during the examination.

The Castilian Court from Salamanca rich,
Prepared for war against Malaga,
Thus interrupting the consultations of the board,
The decision of that body had been delayed,
Keeping Columbus in suspense like a lord.

After some time Columbus was summoned
To court where the sovereigns, Ferdinand
And Isabella were encamped before Malaga,
Which city surrendered in 1487 and
Ended the campaign, the court returned
To Cordova, but was driven from the city
By a pestilence which kept the court migrating
For fully a year, what a pity.

Keeping Columbus waiting very patiently.

Wearied by constant delays he began
To think of applying elsewhere for patronage,
And did open negotiations with King John
Of Portugal for a return to the country,
Receiving a letter in reply March, 1488,
Also a letter from Henry VII, of
England, asking him to that country great.

Both of these invitations he neglected to accept

Owing to favorable indications in Spain,
He was right, for in the spring of 1489
The long-adjourned investigation appeared again
To be in the eve of taking place.

Columbus was now summoned to Seville
To attend a conference of learned men,
But as usual postponed, a necessary evil,

In consequence of another war gainst the Moors
Who were then occupying the city of Baza,
In which history says he was found
Possessing lofty ideas, and not crazy;
Fighting, giving proofs of the distinguished
Valor which accompanied his wisdom.
During the siege an incident took place,
Making an impression not at random.

Two revered friars arrived one day
At the Spanish camp, brethren of convent
Established at the Holy Sepulcher at Jerusalem;
They were bearers of a message sent
From the Grand Soldan of Egypt,
Threatening to put to death all the Christians
In his dominion and destroying the sepulchre
If the sovereigns did not peace sustain,

And quit their war against Granada.

The representations of these friars of the suffering
To which the Christians were subjected

In the Holy Land roused the pious indignation
Of the Spanish cavaliers, and it was probably

From conversation with these friars
That caused Columbus to make the vow, [eries
That profits accruing from his anticipated discov-

Would be devoted to a crusade for the [infidels.

Rescue of the Holy Sepulchre from the power of
Columbus now learned that the court of Salamanca

Had decided adversely, as history tells
To the proposition, and in the report,
Stated his scheme to be vain, impracticable,
And resting on grounds too weak to merit
Support of the government, not applicable.

There were many in the council, however,
Too enlightened to acquiesce in this verdict.
Some of the most considerate persons
Of the court, indeed, moved by the conflict,
Or rather by the cogency of Columbus's argument,
And affected the elevation of his views,
Not only cordially embraced his scheme
But extended their personal friendship, good news.

Among these were the grand cardinal,
Mendoza, and Dega, Archbishop of Seville,
Whose authority had great weight with sovereigns,
And who softened the harshness at will,
Of the verdict of the conference by assuring
Columbus that at the close of the war
They would find time and inclination
To treat with him, his conscience not mar,

Such was the ineffectual result of
Columbus's long and painful solicitation,
And, far from receiving the qualified
Assurance of the sovereigns in mitigation
Of their refusal, he seems to have
Considered it as final and peremptory
In great dejection of mind, therefore,
But without further delay preparatory

To his acquittal at court, he went south,
With the apparently and desperate intention
Of again seeking out some other patron
For his undertaking in his distention.
With a heavy heart he bid adieu to Spain
Not wishing to waste any more time,
He began his journey, however, stopping at
The convent, of La Pabida, feeling sublime.

He was persuaded by the guardian Juan
Perez, his further journeying to postpone,
Until another effort had been made to move
The Spanish Court in his favor alone.
For this purpose the worthy ecclesiastic
Undertook an expedition to the city of Santa Fe,
Where the sovereigns lay encamped before Granada.
On arriving was admitted to an audience gay.

He pressed the suit of Columbus with earnestness,
Was ably supported by several eminent persons
Whom Columbus, during his residence in the country,
Had interested themselves in his project lessons.
Among them were Alonzo de Quintanilla,
Luis de St. Angel and the Marchioness
De Moya, the latter friend of Isabella
And who exhibited a spirit of kindness.

These representation, combined with the
Opportune season of the application occurring
When the approaching termination of the Moorish
War allowed room for other objects interesting,
Wrought so favorable a change in the dispositions
Of the sovereigns that they really consented
To renew negotiations with Columbus
And an invitation to him was presented

By the friar, ordering him to repair to Santa Fe.
Availing himself of this welcome intelligence,
Columbus lost no time in arriving at camp,
This he had done without negligence,
Arriving in time to witness the surrender of Granada,
And when every heart was swelling
With exultation at the triumphant termination,
Truly a propitious moment for dwelling

On the presentation of Christopher Columbus.

At this interview with the king and queen
He endeavored to stimulate the cupidity
Of his audience, picturing the realms unseen,
Of Mangi and Cathay, which he confidently
Expected to reach by a western route,
Concluding his arguments with an appeal
To a higher principal, how resolute,

Holding out the prospect of extending the
Empire of the cross over nations of benighted
Heathens, while he proposed to devote the profits
To the recovery of Holy Sepulchre, how delighted.
The demands of Columbus were considered too high
At this interview, and it was said
They savored of the highest degree of arrogance
And would be unbecoming to grant paid

To a needy foreign adventurer. On this ground
The conferences were abruptly broken off
And again he turned his back on the Spanish
Court, who seemingly at him did scoff.
Resolved rather to forego his splendid anticipations
Of discovery at the moment when the career
So long sought was thrown open to him
Than surrender honorable distinction with fear.

He had a proud and unyielding spirit
Which through years of trials had sustained
And enabled him at length to achieve his
Great enterprise he hoped to have gained,
And too, in the face of every obstacle which
Man and nature seemed to have opposed.
Some men are constitutionally so low
Call a thing higher, opposition is roused.

The friends of Columbus rallied and again

Brought the queen to consider the matter,
Stating that Columbus's demands were made

At least contingent on success, after
Which they would be very well deserved.

At these arguments Isabella was moved,
She contemplated the proposals of Columbus,
In their true light she was behooved

To no longer listen to the suggestions

Of cold councillors, her noble, generous heart
Gave way to natural influences—her own,

She was determined to give Columbus a start.
I will assume the undertaking for my own
Crown of Castile, and am ready to pawn
My jewels to defray the expense of it
If the funds in the treasury are drawn

And found inadequate. A message
At once was dispatched after Columbus,
Who was overtaken a few leagues from Granada,
Where he volunteered to return without any fuss.
When he arrived at Santa Fe he
Experienced a most courteous reception
And was granted an audience with the queen
When an understanding was made to perfection.

A definite arrangement was concluded with
The Spanish sovereigns on April 17, 1492,
By the terms of this agreement Columbus was
Made admiral, governor-general and viceroy
Of all the islands and continents he shall discover,
And was to be entitled to one-tenth of all
The product and profits within the limits
Of his discoveries, whether great or small.

No sooner were the negotiations closed

Then Isabella prepared with her characteristic
Promptness to forward the expedition by the most
Efficient measures, the most artistic.

Orders were sent to Seville and other ports

To furnish stores and articles for the voyage,
The fleet consisting of three vessels, were to sail
From the port of Palos to begin passage.

Palos for some delinquency had been

Condemned to furnish the crown
With two caravels for the period of a year,
Which was a heavy encumbrance to the town.

The third vessel was procured and fitted out

Under the authority of Columbus with the aid
And assistance of Martin Alonzo Pinzon and brother,
Vincente Yanez Pinzon, both of whom paid.

The Pinzons were navigators of great courage.

In about three months everything was ready
For the first perilous voyage of discovery

By Columbus whose mind and hands were steady.
The armament consisted of two caravels

Which were light vessels, decks, had none,
And a third one of much larger burden

From which the flag of Columbus had flown.

The latter had been prepared especially

For this voyage, was decked, named Santa Maria,
Another, called the Pinta was commanded

By Martin Alonzo Pinzon, the third, Nina,
Was in charge of Vincente Yanez Pinzon.

All things being in readiness Columbus
And crew confessed themselves, partook

Of the sacrament. after manners of Spanish

Mariners when on the eve of an important
Voyage. On Friday morning, 1492,
This being exactly on the 3rd of August,
The squadron put to sea, and bidding adieu
To the old world, launched forth on that
Unfathomed waste of waters where no sail
Had ever been spread before a gale,
A feeling of sadness did prevail

Over the entire little community of Palos,
For nearly all had relatives on board.
All the old books and manuscript found
Relating to the departure agree in one accord
That the last seen of Columbus, as he faded
From view of the people on shore
He was standing on his poop with the
Standard of the cross which he did adore,

The image of the Saviour nailed to the
Wood, waving in the early breezes of day.
When Columbus set out on his voyage
So daring and memorable they say
It was his intention to write down
As he proceeded everything that he saw,
And that he did to make a chart
Of his discoveries and course a law,

And which he intended for the inspection
Of the Spanish sovereigns upon his return,
Should he be fortunate enough to get back,
And not have any occasion to mourn;
And it is now to this journal of his
That we are indebted for all the details
Of his first voyage and dramatic incidents,
While journeying his courage never fails.

The exultation of Columbus at finding
Himself, after eighteen years of baffled hope,
Trials, poverty and scoffs, at last launched
On the grand surprise, having full scope,
Was somewhat checked at his lack of
Confidence in his crew, for a great part
Of them had been pressed into service against
Their will, really not wanting to make a start.

On the third day out, according to authorities,
The Pinta made some signals of distress,
Her rudder was found to be badly broken.

At this period was first used for steering purpose,
Replacing the old ancient lateral paddles.

Columbus was much disturbed at this occurrence,
Attributing it to a trick of the owners of the vessel,
To impede a voyage which they held in abhorrence.

The rudder, however, was finally secured

With ropes, and Columbus tried to feel secure,
Owing to the prompt energy of Pinzon,

Who commanded the vessel, and did insure..
The Canary Islands now coming in sight,

It was decided to touch at Gomera,
And there to repair the damaged rudder,
And replace the latine sails of the Nina..

While in port it was learned that the

Portugese vessels were lying in wait
For him in the neighborhood with the purpose
Of intercepting his journey, considered so great,
In retaliation for having gone over to the
Interests of Spain, but he succeeded in evading
Them and continued on his voyage September 6th
This act of the Portugese seemed degrading.

It may be mentioned that Columbus was now

On his way to the New World to discover,
For every league that was sailed from this time

Was upon the unknown deep, the sky as cover.
His course was westward, but for three days,

A dead calm kept the vessels almost within
Sight of land and proved a most vexatious delay,
Raising apprehensions in the minds of his men,

That the voyage might prove too long for their constan-

This suggested to him to falsify the reckoning, [cy.
And the reckoning was secretly kept of the actual num-

Of miles sailed each day, and another making [ber
One considerably less, the latter being given to

The crews daily, the former he did not show.
The result of Monday's sail was sixty degrees,

But put it down forty that they would not know.

This deception was practiced all through voyage
Keeping the crews ignorant of the real distance
Which they had sailed from the port of Palos,
So that it might stop any hindrance.

On the 11th. September they came across a mast
Which was broken and in the water a long while,
The crews looked with fear upon this piece of wreck,
Drifting ominously and in no attractive style.

On the 13th. Columbus notes that the ships
Adverse currents are encountering slowly,
And the voyagers two hundred leagues from Ferro,
The needle of compass pointed so peculiarly
As it had never been observed before,
Gaining a point in the history of navigation,
The needle pointed to the true north
Which at first he made no mention

Of this circumstance, knowing how ready his people

Were to take alarm, but it soon attracted the atten-
Of the pilots and filled them with consternation, [tion

The laws of nature were changing in their apprehen-
Intering another world of unknown influences, [sion,

Christopher Columbus practiced deception again
And stated to the terrified crew that it was

Not the needle but the North Star in the main

That moved like other heavenly bodies,

As the pilots held Columbus in a high opinion
As a profound astronomer, their fears subsided,

The phenomenon of this peculiar variation
Of the magnetic needle has now become familiar

To all navigators, but the cause is a conjecture.
The next day the voyagers were rejoiced by the sight
Of harbingers of land, to them a lecture.

Several birds hovered about the ships,
That same night a meteor fell into the sea,
Which again struck terror into the crews,
Who soon became as quiet as could be.
The ships had now advanced into the influence
Of the trade-winds, which blew steadily
From east to west between the tropics,
With the breezes they were wafted speedily

Over a tranquil sea, so that for many days
No sail was shifted, but Columbus was keeping
A secret of the number of actual miles sailed,
And it was thought they were land nearing,
As they found patches of herbs and weeds;
Soundings were resorted to but no bottom found,
Birds were seen which it was popularly supposed
Never slept except on or near the ground.

This sight encouraged the men with the belief
That they could not be very far from shore;
The sight of a whale was another indication,
Their expectations on vessel grew more and more;
For the sovereigns had promised a pension of ten
Thousand marvedis to him who would first see land,
Which, from the floating weeds, the flights of birds,
Fish, and other animals they had scanned.

Notwithstanding the precautions to keep the crews
In ignorance of the distance sailed they were grow-
Extremely uneasy of the length of the voyage, [ing
They had advanced much further west, still mov-
Than ever man had sailed before, out into that [ing,
Great apparently boundless abyss,
Even the steady trade-winds which were wafting
Them favorably on, their vessel did kiss,

Were construed by the ingenious fears of the crews
 Into a new source of alarm, for they imagined
 They would prove head-winds on their return.

They would never see Spain again they continued.
 A day or so later the course was changed

To west by northwest and they got clear of weeds,
 This change was occasioned by a head-wind,
 And Columbus says in his journal, it needs

But a hint to explain why he welcomed it,
 Because it had the effect on the sailors convincing,
 That westerly winds to return by were

(Here indulging in a short argument) improbable.
 Columbus now, it is said, conferred with Pinzon,

Regarding a chart which with them they did carry,
 Which showed some islands near where they [ry,
 Now supposed the ships did slowly tarry.

The situation was daily becoming more critical,
For in proportion as he approached the region
Where he expected to find land, the impatience
Of the crowd augmented, became a contagion.
The sailors now derided all the supposed
Favorable signs of land weak and delusive;
There being danger of their rebelling and compelling
Him to turn back, this was slightly abusive.

Now on the verge of realizing all his hopes,
They beheld themselves with great dismay,
Wafted onward over the boundless waste, [obey.
The command of Columbus was imperative—must
Should their provisions fail, what then?
Every day added to the expanse left behind.
How should they ever be able to return,
Was constantly preying on their mind,

Having no intervening port where they could

Renew their stores, and their ships repair.

In this way they fed their discontents and [pair.

Fomenting spirit of mutinous opposition, what dis-
In their secret conferences they exclaimed

Against Columbus as a desperado bent

In a mad phantasy, upon doing something [tent.

Extravagant to make himself notorious and con-

Were their lives to be sacrificed in the effort? [ed,

Were they to sail on until they would have perish-
Or until all chance of return was impossible?

All such thoughts they had secretly cherished.

On the other hand if they should have returned,

Who could blame them, for they had now sailed
Further than any one had ever done before,

Such villainous thoughts in their minds prevailed.

The thought then occurred to them of throwing
Columbus into the sea, and the ships turn back,
Accounting for his death, saying he fell overboard,
A report, they reasoned, no one could attack.
Columbus was not ignorant of their disposition,
Still maintaining a serene and stately countenance,
Soothing some of the sailors with gentle words,
Stimulating their pride and service in continuance.

On September 25th. the wind becoming
Favorable, the course was resumed directly west,
The sea was quite calm often permitting the vessels
To approach each other their speed to test;
And indulge in conversation between the crews.
Birds and drift still continued to be present,
Among the latter they saw something like fruit,
To say the least making them feel pleasant

From such indications they thought land was near,
And on Sunday the Nina fired a lombard,
Hoisted a flag as a signal that land was seen,
And Martin Alonzo Pinzon's voice was heard
Exclaiming, Land! Land! Senor, my reward!
Upon this Columbus threw himself on his knees
And returned thanks to God, and under lead
Of commanders, all repeated *Gloria in Excelsis*.

It was, however, only a trick of the clouds,
And proved to be a firmament delusion.
On October 1st. Columbus says in his journal,
I am not laboring under any illusion,
When I say we were seven hundred and seven
Leagues from Ferro, but made the crews believe
It was only five hundred and eighty-four,
As he thought best for them to deceive.

Neither weeds were to be seen floating
Nor birds flying, causing the crews to fear
That they had passed between two islands
From which birds had been passing, perhaps near.
Again they began to utter murmurs and menaces,
But the next day such sights of birds were seen
And other indications of land became numerous,
So that more confident they could not have been.

On the 6th. of October Martin Pinzón suggested
A change of course, but Columbus persisted
In steering directly west, and the next day
At sunrise, some of the men insisted
That from Columbus's ship land was seen,
And the Nina, being a very fast sailor
Pressed forward to ascertain the fact
But again the supposed land was a failure.

For three days more the ships sailed on
And the further they proceeded the more frequent
And encouraging became the signs of land,
And the flight of birds flying along intent
On the same course of the ships seemed to
Confirm their hopes of being a near land.
On the 10th. the men began to lose patience
Again, but Columbus was again at hand

And reassured the men by reminding them
Of the profits which were in store,
And the folly of seeking to return when
They had already gone so far—and more,
He told them that happen what might,
He had finally determined to proceed
Until by the blessing of the Almighty God,
And his own perseverance, he should succeed.

It is stated by nearly all historians

That at this time the feeling existing
Between Columbus and the crews was one

Of open defiance, and the task of persisting
To preserve subordination and to instil [measure,
Confidence, resorted to argument in a certain
And threats, enticements and picture

The misfortunes of incurring the royal pleasure.

The manifestations of the vicinity of land

Were such as to admit no longer of doubt.

Fresh weeds, fish of a kind that keep near rocks,
Bushes, branches of trees with fruit floated about,
And a staff artificially carved were picked up,
And all mutiny gave way to expectation.

After sunset on the 11th. the course was shifted [lating
Again to due west, and the admiral's crew congratu-

Was such as to unite it with more fervor
Than usual in the Salve Regina.
At about 10 o'clock that night as Columbus
Was peering into the night through his retina,
He saw a faint glimmering of light,
And fearing that perhaps he might be deceived,
Pointed it out to Pedro Gutierrez, who
Also plainly saw it, and a third was relieved.

Columbus considered this a sure sign of land.
Four hours after the light was first seen,
And at just 2 o'clock in the morning,
When the moon in the third quarter had been,
Was in the East, the Pinta, keeping ahead,
One of her sailors, Rodrigo de Triana
Discovered the land two leagues away,
And the discharge of a gun from the Pinta

Communicated the joyful intelligence to the other
 Ships. The fleet then took in sail
 And each vessel under backed sheets was
 Pointed to the wind which the seamen did hail.
 It was a proud moment of painful suspense
 To Columbus, and brimming hopes, perhaps fears
 Of disappointment, must have accompanied that
 Hour of wavering enchantment amid streaming
 [tears.

On Friday morning, October 12th. Columbus
 First beheld the New World, his little fleet
 Had been sixty days on its perilous voyage,
 Which, with ten days in their Canary retreat,
 Made the entire voyage seventy days. [land,
 The land before them was discovered to be an is-
 In the language of the natives, Guanahani,
 And which was more than a dreamland. }

Some naked savages on the shores were seen, [land,
 The admiral and other commanders prepared to
 Columbus taking the royal Standard and the
 Others, each a banner of the green cross in hand,
 And which bore the initial of the sovereign,
 With a cross between and a crown surmounting
 Every letter. Thus, with the emblems of their power,
 And accompanied with two captains, not dis-
 [counting.

Rodrigo de Escovedo and Rodrigo Sanchez,
 And several seamen to the shore the boat rowed.
 On landing Columbus threw himself on his knees,
 Kissed the earth, thanked God as the tears flowed,
 His example was followed by all of the others
 Whose hearts overflowed with feelings of gratitude,
 Since they had safely crossed that dark tomb,
 And as they thought in an unknown latitude.

Columbus then rising and throwing back the
 Crimson cloak which covered his armor,
 Drew his sword, displayed the royal standard,
 Gave the island the name of San Salvador,
 After assembling around him all his followers, [eigns,
 Took possession in the name of the Castilian sover-
 And calling upon all to take the oath of allegiance
 To him as admiral and viceroy, representing for-
 [eigners.

The men crowded around Columbus
 With overflowing zeal, some kissing his hand,
 Others embraced him, while those who had been
 Mutinous during the voyage, a little band,
 Were the most devoted and enthusiastic;
 And some who had outraged him by insolence
 Crowded at his feet begging his pardon and
 Promising him for the future, blind obedience.

When at the dawn of day the natives discovered
The ships hovering on the coast,
They supposed them monsters from the deep,
And it is related they got scared the most
When they saw the small boat containing
Columbus leave the ship's side and approach
The shore, they fled in affright to the woods,
And under the branches did crouch.

Finding, however that no attempt was made
To pursue them they gradually recovered
From their terror and drew near the
Spaniards with great awe, and hovered
Around frequently prostrating themselves
Upon the earth and making signs of adoration.
During the ceremonies of taking possession
They remained in timid admiration.

They were surprised at the complexion, beards,
The shining armor and splendid dress
Of the Spaniards, Columbus particularly commanded
Their attention. The natives were no less
Objects of curiosity to the discoverers,
Differing as they did from any race of men
They had ever seen. They were friendly and
Gentle, entirely naked but painted had been.

As Columbus supposed he had landed at an
Island at the extremity of India he called
The natives Indians, a name since extended to
All the aboriginals of the New World.
They gave the natives colored cups, glass beads,
Hawk's bills and other trifles which pleased
Them exceedingly. The Spaniards remained all
Day on the island, then their oars seized.

The island upon which Columbus first landed
Was one of the groups of the Bahamas,
Which stretch east and southwest from the coast
Of Florida and north of Cuba, history says.

On the morning of the 14th. of October

The admiral determined the island to reconnoitre
As the boats passed several Indian villages
Men and women on the shore did loiter.

Throwing themselves on the ground, lifting up their
Hands and eyes, and otherwise demonstrating
Their admiration and worship. These scenes

Were daily repeated as the boats kept up navigating.
Being impatient to arrive at other places, Columbus
Left the island of San Salvador for another
Which could be seen at no great distance,

And to which all went harmoniously together.

He imagined he was among those described by
 Marco Polo as standing in the sea of China.
 Night coming on the ships were ordered to lie to,
 As navigation was dangerous proximate to Cuba.
 The next morning they went on shore and took
 Solemn possession the same as they had done
 In San Salvador, when the same scenes
 With the natives had earnestly begun.

The name Santa Maria de la Concepcion
 To this island had been duly given.
 Two days later another island was reached,
 The name Fernandino was transferred to this one.
 Leaving here Columbus sailed in quest of an
 Island called Saometo, upon which he was told
 By the natives that a king dwelt in a large city,
 And that there was also a mine of gold.

The island was found, but not gold nor king,
 But it proved to be the most beautiful of all
 Those he had seen, as an abundance of fruits
 Of a kind they had never seen, nor call.
 The natives also appeared to be of a better kind,
 The women wearing mantles and aprons of cotton.
 And their habitations were construed in the
 Pavillion or high circular tent of branches gotten

Off of the native trees, also using nets of cotton
 For beds, called *hamacs*, now known as hammocks,
 To this island he gave the name of Isabella,
 But now is called Isle Largo and seemingly rocks
 On the bosom of the ocean, He remained here
 Several days, filling his casks with water and laying
 In some specimens of fruits and also some
 Of the natives on board taking, when leaving.

It was from these natives that Columbus

First heard of the island of Cuba

To which he sailed along the shores,

Then giving it the name of Juana,

After Prince Juan. For several days

He coasted along, discovering rivers and harbors,

Among which was one which he called Puerto del

Principe, and here as on island neighbors

He erected a cross and took possession, passing [ago

Several days in exploring with his boat an archipel-

Of small islands, since known as El Jardin del Rey.

On the 20th. he prepared to go

Making signals for the other vessels to follow,

But the signals were ignored by the Pinta,

Columbus repeated the signals, but they were still

Unattended to, and night coming on he saw

No tidings of the others. He shortened sail

And hoisted signal lights, but when morning
Came the Pinta was nowhere to be seen,

Columbus was much disquieted by this warning
And imagined that Pinzon had deserted him

To either prosecute discoveries on his own part
Or hasten back to Spain and bear off all the glory
Of the discovery. It was not manly art.

On the 24th. he returned to Cuba and

Anchored in a harbor which he called
St. Catherine, and spent several more days

Coasting and on Decemember 5th. he sailed
To the end of the island. The natives now

On board told him of another island, Bahio,
And which is now called Hayti.

Columbus gave it the name of Hispaniola.

Still another island was discovered and

Named Tortgas, from the immense
Number of turtles he had found there.

On December 10th. with a clear conscience,
The harbor of St. Thomas was discovered.

The natives of these islands acted the same
As those of San Salvador, the first island found,
Flying to the woods as the boats came,

And afterwards returning when not pursued,
To be presented with beads and bells.

On the morning of the 24th. of December
Columbus set sail, as his journal tells,

From the port of St. Thomas and steered

To the east. The wind was from the land
But so slight as to scarcely fill the sails,
It was Christmas Eve all feeling grand.

While within a couple of leagues of land,
Columbus finding the sea smooth retired to rest.
No sooner had he done so than the steersman
Gave the helm in charge one of the boys to test
And went to sleep, and the rest of the crew
Taking advantage of the absence of Columbus,
Went to sleep also. In the meantime the vessel
Was being carried to shore by currents treacherous.

The boy did not notice the breakers until he
Felt the rudder strike and heard the roar
Of the waters, when he began to call loudly
For aid. Columbus was the first to score,
And when the startled crew appeared ordered
Them to take a boat and carry out an anchor
Astern to warp the vessel off. The crew sprang
Into the boat, causing a great stir,

But instead of casting the anchor in the
Confusion to the other vessel did skip,
Half a league to windward and made known
The perilous state of Columbus's ship.
By the time the commander had reached Columbus
It was too late the vessel for to save.
The mast was ordered cut away to lighten
The ship in hopes that they might have

.

The use of her to return, but all efforts
Were in vain. The keel was firmly fixed
In the sand, while the shock had opened
Many seams, everything was greatly mixed,
The breakers striking her broadside lifted her
Each moment more and more aground
Until finally she fell over on one side,
And was abandoned by all around.

Columbus rowed to the Nina with his men, [ing,
 Communicating with the native chief in the morn-
 And making known the disaster, that friendly
 Native sent many canoes and men not alarming,
 To assist in unloading the ship, so that in a
 Short time everything of value was saved
 And placed on shore. This assistance gave
 Many opportunities, the natives well behaved.

Mutual confidence sprung up between the
 Spaniards and natives. The shipwreck shackled
 And limited all Columbus's future discoveries,
 And linked his fortunes (after all he tackled)
 For the remainder of his life to this island,
 And involving him in many perplexities,
 The saving of his stores and the loss of
 His ships, the latter causing some anxieties

Suggested what some of his men had asked for,
That they might be left there while admiral
Returned to Spain with the news of his discovery,
If Pinzon, the recreant commander, scoundrel,
Of the Pinta, had not already sailed for home
Ahead of him. Columbus ordered a fort
To be constructed out of the materials of the wreck
And provisioned for a year of the sort

Used in those days and on that occasion,
Which, with the assistance of the natives
Was built in about ten days. Forty men
Were left to garrison it, not to say captives,
And it as well as the harbor where the wreck
Occurred, was called La Navidad.
Diego do Branza was put in command
Neither of the forty men felt very sad.

On December 27th. Columbus received tidings
Of the absent ship Pinta with cheerfulness.
On Sunday, December 30th., the Spaniards and
Natives vied with each other in graciousness.
The chief put his crown on Columbus and
The latter placed his scarlet coat on the chief.
Preparations were now begun for the return to Spain,
On Jan. 5, 1849, leave taking was made brief.

Columbus impressed the natives with the
Great power of the Spaniards and to instil
A dread of them in the interest of those
He left behind in the fort, not to kill.
He arranged a series of grand exhibitions,
Causing the crews to perform skirmishes,
Mock battles, sham fights with swords, buckles,
Lances, cross-bows, cannon and arquebuses.

The Indians were astonished at the keenness
Of the swords and the deadly power
Of the cross-bows and arquebuses, but they
Were struck with awe when the shower
From the heavy lombards in the fort
Pealed forth, wrapping it in wreaths of smoke,
Shaking the forest with their report and
Shivering the trees with the balls of stone, no joke,

When the mention is made here that such
Were the artillery used in those days,
The festivities being ended, Columbus took
Final leave of the native chief, and displays.
The signal gun was fired, the crew gave a
Parting cheer and on the 4th. of January
The ship set sail from La Navidad,
They steered eastward towards a lofty promontory,

To which the name of Monte Christi was given
Which it still retains. A sailor stationed
At the masthead now beheld the Pinta
At a distance which shortly had hastened
And joined Columbus, when Pinzon endeavored
To excuse his desertion by saying he was compelled
To part company by stress of weather.
On the 9th. of January they had sailed

And arrived at a river which was named
Rio de Gracia, and continuing coasting,
Came to a bay where they made a landing
But found the natives less coaxing,
And quite different from the gentle and
Peaceful people met in the other parts [swords
Of the island. They were armed with war clubs,
Made of hardwoods, bows and arrows, darts

From their ferocious aspects they were

Supposed to be the dreaded Caribs.

As the boats approached the shore

Full fifty or more of the savages,

All armed, came forward, but on a word

From the chief their weapons laid by

And came forth to meet the Spaniards;

Suddenly conceiving some mistrust they

Rushed for their arms, snatched them up and

Returned as if to fight the new-comers;

The Spaniards attacked them, wounded two

And put the rest to flight—what runners.

This was the first contest with the Indians

In the New World. Repressing his inclination

To seek further discoveries, and to the great joy

Of his crew who were in a state of jollification.

"On January 16th. he directed his course [tuous;
 Direct to Spain. The return voyage was tempestuous;
 Storms and high seas were frequent
 Until on February 16th. a tremendous
 Gale struck the vessels and during the night
 They lost sight of each other. The storm
 Increased to such an extent that little hope
 Was felt they would see land again of any form.

Religious vows were made and pilgrimages
 Arranged, and all vowed to pay their devotion
 At the nearest church should they be spared.
 The following morning while all were in motion,
 Land was seen and the transports of the
 Crew almost equalled those experienced the time
 When first they beheld the New World,
 New beings, new land, new clime.

The land proved to be St. Mary's one of the
 Azores, in possession of the King of Portugal.
 Here he remained two days and again set sail
 For Spain, and on March 4th. his arrival
 Found themselves off the rock of Cintra,
 At the mouth of the Tagus, in Portugal, and came
 To anchor. A messenger was dispatched with the
 Tidings of his discovery to the King and Queen
 [of Spain.

King John of Portugal, sent congratulations to
 Columbus and invited him to his court,
 Which invitation was accepted. He remained
 Here ten days, and on March 15, 1493, the port
 Of Palos he entered and anchored, but not far
 From the spot from which he had sailed.
 It is a singular coincidence, but one which
 Appears to be well authenticated

That on the very day on which Columbus reached [ing
 Palos, and while the peals of triumph were still ring-
 From its towers, the Pinta, commanded by Pinzon,
 Which had become separated in their voyaging,
 Likewise entered the harbor. Doubting whether
 Columbus had survived the gale, Pinzon had
 Prepared a letter to the sovereigns requesting per-
 To come to court, feeling so very glad [mission

To make known in person the discoveries,
 But beholding the vessels of Columbus in port,
 And learning of the enthusiasm of his reception,
 He was much cast down, as at court
 He was forbidden by the sovereigns to appear.
 This so acted upon him that he died
 In a few days of deep dejection,
 And for whom, poor mortal, no one sighed.

Columbus's letter had produced a great sensation

At the Spanish Court, and the event he announced
Was considered the most extraordinary in [nounced,

Their reign, and Columbus a great man was pro-
And was requested to come at once to court

Which at Barcelona was then being held.
The stories of his discoveries had preceded him,
And as he approached the crowd swelled

Into throngs of people who conducted him

Into the city in great triumph, the Indians
Which he had brought with him led the line

And bearers of all the marvels—specimens
Of the New World followed, some with parrots

And other birds, others with ornaments of gold,
Some with skins of unknown animals, plants,

Columbus on horse back, what a sight to behold

Amid the mounted chivalry of Spain.

Thus the procession marched on through the street
Amid the shouts of the people of the Alcazar
Of the Moorish kings, (how all did greet),
Where it is supposed Ferdinand and Isabella
Had caused their thrones to be set up in gold,
Rather a canopy of gold drooping about them.
Columbus's bosom heaved as never told

When he approached the royal dais both
Monarchs rose to receive him standing.
At their request he gave an account of his
Voyages, his discoveries and his landing,
Before the assembled nobility of Spain,
And at the conclusion of his recital
The sovereigns sunk on their knees and poured
Forth thanks to God, how spiritual.

The anthem *Te Deum Laudamus* was chanted [ment
 By the choir of the royal chapel with accompani-
 Of instruments. Such was the solemn and pious
 Manner in which the court celebrated this sublime
 Offering up a grateful tribute of melody and [event,
 Praise and giving glory to God
 For the discovery of another world
 In which millions in the future would plod.
 The tidings of the discovery were spread far and wide,

And the whole civilized world filled with wonder.
 On September 25, 1493, Columbus sailed on his
 Second voyage on which he did preponder,
 Taking with him fifteen hundred men and
 Seventeen ships, besides hundreds of animals
 For propagation in the New World, and
 After a journey of forty days looking at intervals,

Discovered land, which proved to be an island.

It was named Dominica. He reached Espanola
On November 22nd., Monte Christi the 27th.,

And La Navidad on the 20th., but how sorry
To find it deserted and those he left behind in

That fort killed by the natives. After extending
Their voyage to the adjacent islands in vain,
Efforts in quest of gold mines spending.

On Febtuary 21, 1494, twelve of the vessels

Returned to Spain with the treasures they collected.
The rest of the vessels with Christopher Columbus

Continued their explorations and as expected
Discovered the island of Jamaica and several

Other smaller ones. On his return to
The island of Isabella he found his brother
Bartholomew there in grand review,

After having sailed from Spain with three
 Caravels on April 30th., 1484, after him came
 Still another expedition in command of Antonia
 Tarres, with four ships provided with game.
 Efforts were being made all this time to
 Establish towns, forts, etc., and to colonize
 The different islands. On March 10, 1496, Columbus
 Set sail for Spain, after all did harmonize.

He had spent a year in continuing his discoveries,
 And planting colonies, and with him taking
 Thirty of the natives, he arrived in Cadiz,
 Spain, on June 11th., the second trip making.
 On his return he was invited to court, but
 Would seem not to have met with as gracious
 A reception as on the last occasion, when he
 Returned triumphant from discoveries so anxious.

Columbus now remained in Spain until

May 30th., 1498, when he left the port
Of San Lucas de Barremedo, with six vessels

For his third voyage of discovery, with sport.
During his stay in Spain these two years

Many other expeditions had been fitted
Out and started across the Atlantic,

The way now well known must be admitted.

All the best mariners and brave spirits

Of the civilized world knew this watery way.
On this voyage Columbus discovered Trinidad,

But did not intend here for to stay.
From there he struck across to the Continent

Of South America, which was the first time
He had ever set foot on the Continent

Of the New World, now feeling prime,

Although he was unaware of it at the time.

From here he went to Espanola.

During his absence from the latter place,

His brother built a fort at Santo Domingo,
Which place he selected and named.

In the next two years, more ships were sent back
To Spain with all the gold that could be procured,
Together with specimens of plants, animals no lack.

For a long time afterwards Columbus remained

At Santo Domingo, as the new colony
Was much disturbed and open revolts were

Only subdued by recourse to arms, such mutiny,
Causing at the time much blood to be shed.

Accounts of these troubles having reached
The ears of the sovereigns in Spain,
A commissioner was sent who searched

With his two ships and crews and enquire
 Into affairs, and who arrived at Santo Domingo,
 During the absence of Columbus and brother.

This commissioner was Francisco de Bobadilla,
 Who immediately upon landing took possession
 Of the little town, also the house of Columbus,
 And secured all his papers and effects.

When Columbus had returned what a fuss.

He was seized by orders of Bobadilla,
 Loaded with chains and cast into prison.
 In October, 1500, he was sent back to Spain
 A captive. He was soon an audience given
 With the Spanish monarch who ordered chains off.
 Columbus lived two years after this in Spain.
 His property was taken away from him
 And he suffered in body and mind, pain.

At times he was reduced to actual want,
And his spirit broken by seeing expeditions
Sent to the New World without him, all
This being caused by his enemies' conditions.
His property, however, was afterwards restored
To him, but not all his titles and honor.
Subsequently affairs took a brighter turn
Until in 1502 was again restored to favor.

He was again sent with two ships on
Another voyage, but was forbidden to call
At Espanola. His hardships were now
Beginning to tell upon him—A downfall.
His mental and physical conditions much
Strained. He sailed from Cadiz 30, May
1502, and reached Martinico after a short
Voyage. On this trip he determined to disobey

His instructions and revisit Santo Domingo,
 Where he arrived in June, but was forbidden
 To enter the harbor by the authorities.

He spent some time repairing his "riggin "
 And making new discoveries, before he again
 Set sail for Spain, after another tempestuous
 Voyage, and after a long series of fatigues
 He finally reached the harbor of San Lucas.

During all of the period he remained
 In the New World on his fourth voyage
 He was beset with difficulties of all kinds;
 Storms at sea, troubles with the natives, savage,
 Sickness, bodily and mental diseases,
 Losses of ships, and his enemies
 Both at home and in the islands
 He had discovered, adding to his miseries;

All put together rendered his life one

Of vexation, chagrin and almost despair.

His ships, too, were in very bad condition

In a letter to the sovereigns, "Is it fair ?

I was twenty-eight years old when I

Came into your highnesses services and now

I have not a hair upon my head that is not grey,

My body is infirm and beginning to bow,

And all that was left to me as well

As my brother, has been taken away and sold,

Even to the frock that I wore, to my dishonor,

Can my friends treat me so cold " ?

On the arrival at San Lucas, Columbus

Now a sick man, to Seville was conveyed,

Where he remained a long time in hopes

Of getting better, which on his mind preyed.

At this time he was neglected by nearly
 Every one in Court. The Queen who had
 Befriended him, was dead and his profits
 From the discoveries were not paid
 Him, while his property had had been seized
 To satisfy creditors. His disease was increasing,
 Dispite that fact he proceeded to Salamanca
 To see the king in an effort of obtaining

The reward of his discoveries, and followed
 The court to Valladolid. but his illness
 Causing him alarm, he made his will.

His last act on earth, and before witness.
 After partaking of the sacrament he died
 May 20, 1506, hoping for the reward of his merit,
 His last words being, "Into Thy Hands,
 O Lord, I commit my Spirit."

He Came,

AND what a coming! Doubts and Difficulties

Were its heralds, dangers and disappointment
Its genii, heart burnings and humiliations its [ment.

Hourly companions. Everything was discontent-
Troubles, thick as the flying gold of the sylvan

Forests, gathered around the feet of the Genoese,
And pit falls innumerable lay in ambush

For his steps, all of which did displease.

Denounced as a visionary, a dreamer of dreams,

Madman and impostor, he turned from cottage
Door and palace gate, a victim to the heartless

Cruelty of an ignorant age. The village
Dolts jeered him as an oaf, and the puffed up

Sciolists of the time spurned him as a charlatan,
But his unbounded trust in heaven, throughout [gun.

Those harrowing days, never faltered since he be-

Rebuffs and repulses failed to break his spirit,
And amid many trials and bitter persecutions,
He clung to his purpose with inflexible tenacity.

Weary and footsore after many journeyings
In heat and cold, in storm and darkness,
He sought invariable refuge in God's sanctuary,
And there communing with the one Being who alone
Could understand him, he repaired the serenity

Of his confidence, and shook off the troubles
That weighed upon his invisible soul.
It was his lofty and sincere piety that chiefly
Paved the way for his coming to his goal,
For it enabled him to cast aside mountains
Of difficulties as though they were mole hills,
And inspired him with a courage that obstacles
Only seemed to foster, his heart fills.

His commanding figure and noble mein
 Admirably reflected his exalted reverence
 For his Maker, while the whips and scorns of
 Time, took on a rarer aspect, and his endurance
 When viewed in the light of his deep devotion
 To the sorrow-pierced heart of a heavenly Mother.
 The religious side of Columbus's character must
 Be fully taken into account as a brother

If we wish to do justice to his extraordinary
 Life work. It was when the world scorned
 And men derided him most that he trusted most
 In the guidance of Divine Providence the same ad-
 And felt most confident in the success of [orned,
 The magnificent project that was destined
 By its realization to revolutionize the world.
 A consequence which is not questioned.

Of this religious element in his character
And career that the clouds broke away
When one might have expected them to gather
Still blacker and thicker, and shall say
The rift in the heavens disclosed to his
Longing gaze the blue zone of hope
Which presaged ultimate success. Suddenly,
As if by magic, many voices spoke,

And palace gates opened, knightly forms
Bowed before him, a king welcomed to court,
And a peerless women, queen by nature
And by name, the most religious sort,
Hailed him as one who was to fasten in
The diadem of Spain, the brightest gem
That could sparkle there. Courtiers speedily
Followed their example and it would seem

That those who had but a short time before

Gorgonized him with a haughty, stony stare,
Now vied with him in doing homage to the

Poor adventurer from Genoa. Did not spare
Money and ships which were placed at his

Disposal, and soon the prow of the caravel
Which the newly made admiral commanded
Pointed westward o'er the deep to travel,

And every breeze that swelled the canvass of the

Santa Maria bore her further into a wild waste
Of unknown waters and nearer to the shores of the

Promised land, the coveted goal all in taste.
Who that has read the record of that voyage

Has not felt his heart palpitate with doubt
And joy, fear and hope, as storm and sunshine
Attended the westward weird watery route,

Of that hero freighted craft while the one
Threatened to engulf her in the fathomless deep,
Or the other enkindled fresh hopes in the breasts
Of her intrepid crew, who did not weep.
At last the golden dawn of an October morning
Disclosed to the enraptured eyes of the mighty
Argonauts, the fairest vision that ever yet unrolled
Itself to the human gaze since Adam with piety

First looked upon the newly created works of
The Almighty. The primeval forests of beauty
Loomed above the horizon and the dream
Of a lifetime became a magnificent reality.
He saw before him a continent that stretched,
Though he knew not then, from pole to pole,
And gemmed the boundless spaces that
Separated two mighty oceans which did roll.

Who knows but in that moment of ecstasy

It was vouchsafed to him to see with prophetic
Ken what that continent was destined to be,

That at the end of four hundred years its majestic
Portion was to be the home of sixty millions

Of free men, noble, prosperous, happy, united,
Singing peans of praise to the man whose
Matchless genius this modern Canaan sighted,

And made it possible there to rear a monument
To freedom whose foundation would rest
Upon adamant and whose roof would

Shelter all nations, inviting them west;
And as he dipped into this vision of the future
He must have beheld the marvel those
Freemen had accomplished, those boundless
Acres teeming with all that nature grows;

Magnificent cities vieing in grandeur and
 Stateliness with the marble city of Augustus,
 And infinitely surpassing it in all that contribute
 To the refinement and amenities of living thus.
 But above all his God loving and religious soul
 Must have exalted in the conviction
 That he had hewed the way for the Gospel,
 That his sublime sacrifices with intention,

And immortal labors had helped the Cross
 To surmount countless spires, and that the seed
 He sowed when he knelt on our virgin soil
 And unfurled CHRIST'S banner in speed,
 Has borne incalculable fruit and enlarged
 The kingdom of GOD'S children beyond
 All previous demensions, and in whom fond
 Scintillations of a spiritual existence did respond.
Will Creedon, Graduate Jefferson Medical College, Phila., Pa., (Class '90).



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 000 862 673 A



PRESS OF JOHN D. HALL, WHEELING, W. VA.